

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, and 6 Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

This rejection has been addressed by:

- a. amending claim 1 to delete the recitation of “the predetermined distance”;
- b. amending claim 3 to delete the recitation that the “flexibility” of the peg is “predetermined”; and
- c. amending claim 6 to delete the recitation of the “predetermined angle.”

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite a **middle plate** and a **top plate**, which form the borders of the trough and extend transversely from a **main plate**. These elements are clearly shown in the original drawings, and therefore the amendments to the claims do **not** constitute “**new matter**.”

In order to provide proper antecedence for the added claim language, the drawings have been amended to include reference numbers for the main, middle, and top plates of the pivotal carrier, and the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the original specification has been amended accordingly. Again, the amendments to the drawings and specification are formal in nature, involving the addition of reference numerals and the naming of clearly shown but previously unnamed elements, and therefore the amendments to the drawings and specification also do **not** constitute “**new matter**.”

Finally, it is respectfully noted that claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original 4, *i.e.*, the “slanted surface,” and that the claims have further been amended to place them in proper U.S. format and correct various grammatical and idiomatic errors.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Please add reference numerals 200, 201, and 202 to Figs. 1-3, as indicated in the attached REPLACEMENT SHEETS, and as marked in red on the attached ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING THE CHANGES.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-6 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,259,783 (Hileman)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Hileman patent fails to disclose a support assembly that includes:

- a pivotal carrier mounted via pegs on a motherboard and including **main, middle, and top plates**, as claimed, a trough being formed between the middle and top plates for positioning an edge of an expansion card; and
- a **slanted surface** on the middle plate that causes pivoting of the carrier into a position in which the edge of the card is held in the trough.

While the support assembly of Hileman includes a pair of pivotal arms, each including “grips” 63 that form transversely-extending plate-like structures, the plate-like structures of Hileman do not correspond to the claimed middle and top plates since the plate-like structures do not define troughs for holding the card edge, and since the pivotal carrier is not urged into the card edge securing position by engagement between the card edge and a slanted surface on the middle plate. Instead, the grips 63 form handles that enable the arms to be manually snapped over the edge of cards, *after* the cards have been positioned. The structures that extend from the grips of Hileman do not hold the edge of the cards, and do not include slanted surfaces corresponding to the claimed slanted surface.

In contrast to grips 63 of Hileman, which are used to enable element 68 to be manually pivoted against the card, with the card being held between surface 67 and the bottom edge of projection 64, the claimed carrier is actually pivoted into place upon installation of the card, without the need for manual manipulation of the carrier. Because the expansion card supported by the support of the assembly is primarily held in place by the dummy adaptor 50 illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, it is only necessary to provide auxiliary support for the edges of the card, and therefore there is no need for the overcenter, snapping action required by Hileman to secure the card in place, the claimed invention substituting enhanced ease-of-assembly for increased holding force.

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As is best illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the present application, the claimed invention is arranged so that when a card held by a dummy adapter 50 is installed on the motherboard, by vertically inserting the dummy adapter into an available card slot, *the edge of the card will press down on slanted surface 131 and cause carrier 20 to pivot* about pivot 21 so as to capture the edge of the card in the trough formed by plates 201 and 202. There is no need for the user to manually snap the carrier onto the card as in the Hileman patent. On the other hand, because of the arrangement of the pivot hole 58 of Hileman at the front and bottom of the carrier, downward movement of a card against one of the arms of Hileman will have the initial effect of pivoting the arm away from the card securing position, thus necessitating the manual manipulation of the grips.

Because the Hileman patent does not disclose or suggest all elements recited in claim 1, from which claims 2-6 depend, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
Registration No. 33,805

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BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

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FIG. 1

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

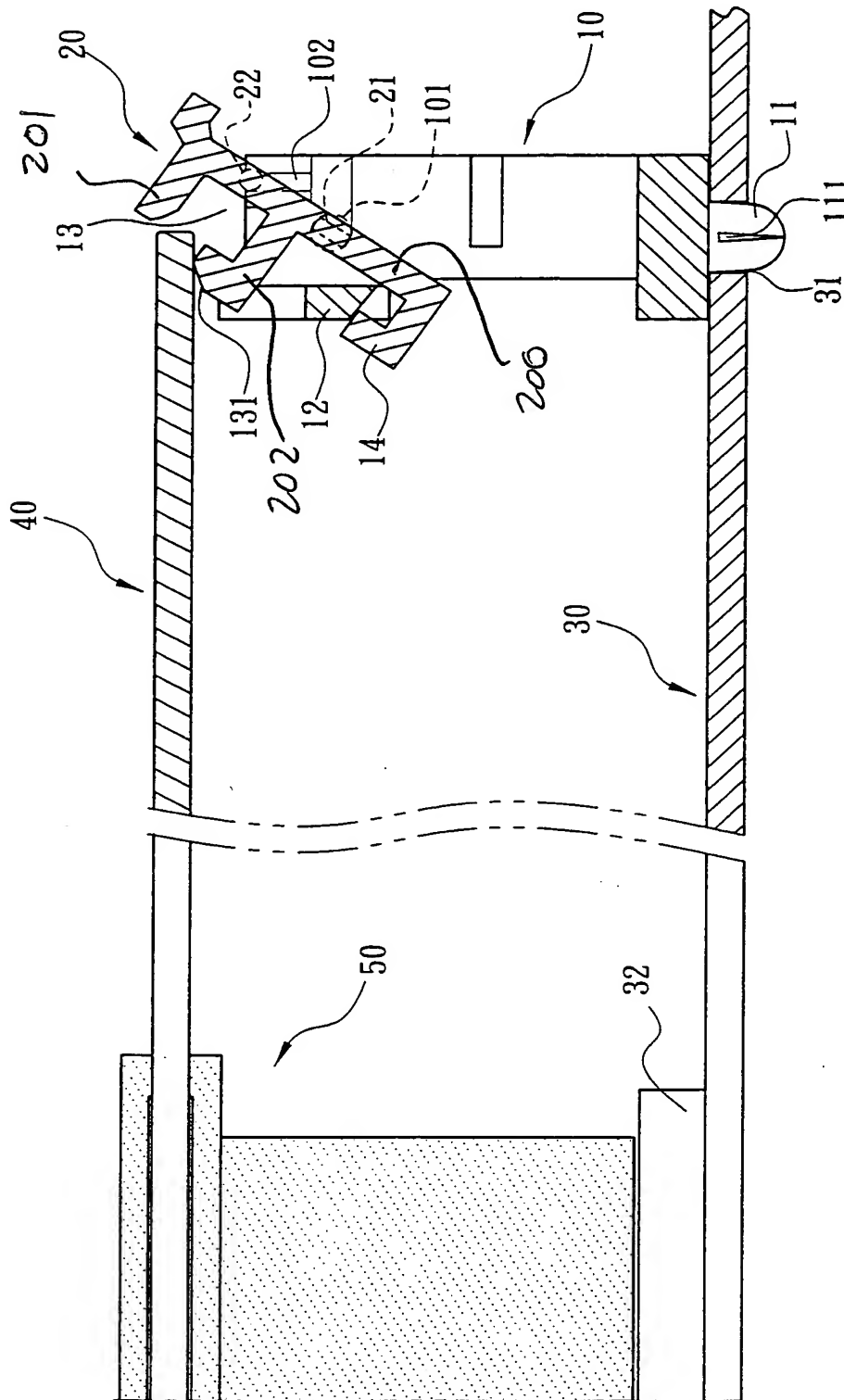


FIG. 2

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

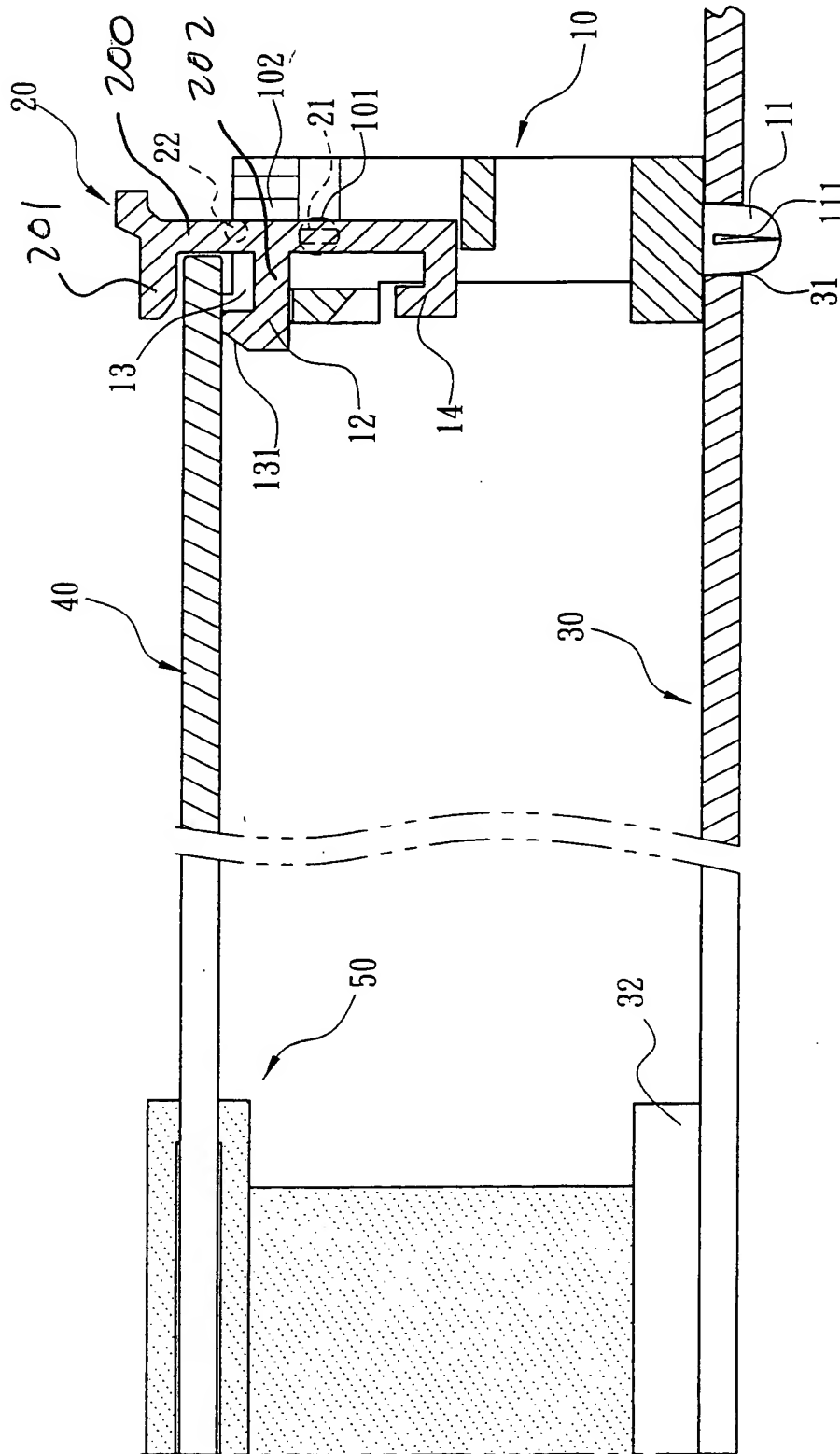


FIG. 3